



NEWS RELEASE

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WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HOLT WOMAN SENTENCED FOR LATHROP BANK ROBBERY USING FAKE BOMB

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Holt, Mo., woman was sentenced in federal court today for robbing the Lathrop Bank on Sept. 11, 2003.

Evelyn Louise Ranes, 49, of Holt, Mo., was sentenced by U.S. District Chief Judge Dean Whipple this morning to three years and five months in federal prison without parole.

On Oct. 9, 2003, **Ranes** pleaded guilty to stealing approximately \$3,922 from Lathrop Bank in Lathrop, Mo.

Ranes entered Lathrop Bank at approximately 11:05 a.m. on Sept. 11, 2003, Graves said, and placed a black leather bag on the counter at a teller station. She was wearing dark glasses with what appeared to be a miniature camera taped to the glasses, and appeared to be wearing an earpiece with a boom-style microphone.

Ranes told the clerk, "You're being watched ... I'm not kidding; this is serious." She motioned to a device around her neck and claimed to be "wired." **Ranes** said they were being watched and listened to, and claimed there was a van at the school filled with explosives. Throughout the incident, Graves said, **Ranes** continually pushed at her ear, as though she were listening to instructions through an earpiece, and talked into the boom microphone as though she were talking to someone over a radio or cellular phone.

Two tellers placed money into the bag, and **Ranes** instructed the tellers not to sound an alarm or let anyone leave the bank for 10 minutes. "If anything happens to me," **Ranes** told the tellers, "tell my family I love them."

As **Ranes** left the bank, an employee saw her driving a tan Ford Explorer. Law enforcement officers determined the license plates were issued to **Ranes**, and responded to her home in Holt. They entered through the open front door of the house and found **Ranes** upstairs, where she was taken into custody.

Ranes told police officers that there was no bomb and that the device around her neck was a hoax explosive device – a croquet wicket and electrical outlet adaptor wrapped together in tape. **Ranes** also told officers that she had taped an earpiece to her glasses to make it look as though it were a camera lens and acted as though she was talking with someone during the robbery, when in fact she acted alone.

Ranes said she got the idea to place a hoax explosive device around her neck from a similar recent incident in Pennsylvania.

This case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Katharine Fincham. It was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Clinton County, Mo., Sheriff's Department and the Lathrop, Mo., Police Department.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at

www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow